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REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

Vol. III, No. 15

840 Boatmen's Bank Bldg., St. Louis 2, Mo.

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HOPES TO SEE FATHER IN NEW GUINEA

Allyn Wolff has finished his course at the Radio School of Wisconsin University and is now radio man first class with the Navy. He had a chance to become instructor, but theory and practice he didn't like, so took communications instead.

He had scarlet fever at school, but apparently the Navy agrees with him---he's grown almost 3 inches in a year, towering now at 6'1". Those who saw him on his brief stop-over here enroute to California, where he awaits transfer to a ship, thought he looked fine. He hopes to get on a ship docking at New Guinea where his father is a private in the Quartermaster Corps.

HOME BETTER THAN BRONZE STARS

REA's contribution to the AMG, Major Frank Peebles, is back in the States again and stopped here enroute to the West Coast. Beyond that, nothing is known of his next assignment. The Major has won four bronze stars and may get another one, but---he prefers to come home instead.

While in Europe, Major Peebles managed portable power plants in towns after the AMG took over. Most of his work was in Italy. He thinks some of the power equipment provided for such purposes might be used to good advantage by REA co-ops.

WANTS TELECAST OF REA PARTY

"I joined the Navy and now I am seeing the world," Lt. Wm. Melchiorsen writes from the Marianas. "Have been here about a week. It's

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READIN' AND 'RITIN' AND 'RITHMETIC

Lt. Col. Edwin J. Withers, long at Fort Belvoir, Va., writes now from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, saying, "I am a school boy again, attending the Command and General Staff School. The course lasts 10 weeks, and I'll be out about May 26. They sure do pour it on here---we are really in high gear from early morning till late at night....I'll be going back after I finish here and take a little leave in Terre Haute.....then back to the same old address (Ft. Belvoir)."

PLEASE PASS THE OCTOPUS

Capt. Warner Smith has left Guam and is on a "rock" somewhere in the Pacific. He says he reached it on an LST---it took 17 days of rolling at 8 knots to do it. Of the natives he says, "Although interned, they are treated as friends that you never turn your back on. They are great fishermen and use U. S. nets with pride and skill. The other day I witnessed a haul which included many curious and fearsome appearing critters of the deep. A native approached me with an octopus which was crawling up his arm by means of applying his suction cups to the man's arms and shoulder. He said, 'Good chow', and offered him to me. He appeared hurt when I declined with repugnance. He then offered me a blow fish and demonstrated how to blow him up. They are really show-offs and presumably think the white man to be their benefactor."

A WAC WRITES FROM BELGIUM

Sgt. L. Beryl Longenecker appreciates the beauty of her present location. She writes,

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COLUMN WRITE!

MAJOR JOHN STOCKMAN TARR writes that he is "on the Continent" (Europe) with a headquarters setup. He has completely electrified his quarters in true REA fashion. His wife---she was Carmen Hensel of REA---lives in Washington, D. C., and on the Major's birthday delighted him with pictures, some in color, of their two children, Mary and John....."Had three days leave in Paris last week and really had a time"

CAPT. JOHN H. EDDY writes by card. "Paris is a beautiful city and very gay. Would like to spend more time there.".....LT. GRAHAM HUNTER assures us, "New Guinea hasn't changed a bit since I have been here and isn't likely to. I still am looking forward to getting back to the states although I realize that for at least the next twelve months it is only wishful thinking on my part.".....A. C. Petsche of A&L has plenty of reason to be proud of son LT. CHARLES W., who has won the Purple Heart and an Oak Leaf Cluster. He has also been put in for the Silver Star, and has three major campaign stars for the ETO ribbon.....LT. (jg) N. M. LEVINSON says of his island in the Aleutians, "Spring has finally come to this hunk of rock. It rained last week for the first time, and the fog rolled in, so from now on we can expect it as a steady diet, even though the snow won't be gone until late June or early July. The first rain we had took out about 5 feet of the snow, and now all we have left is a scant 17 or 18 feet of it to remind us of a rip-roaring winter....Just as soon as I get a chance I will go down and look up Doc. Schantz (brother of Joan Markland of Personnel). He is here at a hospital....The elusive blue fox inhabiting this island is an interesting animal in that he has no fear of humans. Once caught, they make lively pets. They live for the most part on remote volcanic peaks. If you see one, stand still. He has enormous curiosity, and pretty soon will come to investigate you, sniffing around to see if he can figure out what this strange smelling animal is. Then you grab him, and in a couple of days you have a nice pet."....A. KAMINSTEIN, formerly of the Solicitor's office, is an assistant field director for the Red Cross in Hawaii where he arrived last October. His picture appeared in the March 19 issue of "AIEAN," Red Cross publication.....From a Submarine Rest and Recuperative camp LT. (jg) RAY SEVERINE writes, "I have met CEM Gene Meyer and Lt. Melchiorson, who just

arrived. I haven't yet seen H. Treadway, but expect to soon as his dry dock is not far from one of my duty stations.".....Leave it to J. S. STROJNY, S 1/c, to write refreshing comment. From his Navy pier in Chicago he says, "There are so many men from REA in military service who are in communications, radar, and other electronic branches of service that, after they all come in, the Boatmen's Bank Building will glow purple with electronic radiations!....I met up with Ted Orndof, formerly of Finance, here at the Pier. He is attached to an LST unit and is in training until June. At first I didn't recognize him as he has put on quite a bit of weight.".....LT. (jg) HARDIN SHATTUCK shipped out of Seattle the last week in April for some Pacific destination. To Harold Whittle he commented "Still combining business with pleasure.".....ENSIGN GEORGE SCHERRER passed through town recently, stopping briefly at REA. He promises an APO number within 2 or 3 weeks.....A report has it that LT. R. S. WEBER is now stationed at the Navy Yard in Washington, D. C. (Anybody know? His Roll Calls are coming back from his previous address).....SGT. WM. C. WISE hasn't been writing much, but promises to do better the first day after the war is over. He's in Europe and drops in on Paris now and then for business reasons. The city, he says, is wonderful but he dreads the long, rugged trip. For a couple of Saturday nights he will be on the American Eagle program (Mutual network) giving his name and that of his outfit.....ENSIGN WALTER O. OELTJEN is waiting for his passage over.....HOUSTON LAY is now captain of an LSM, according to Osborne Briden who saw him when both were in Washington, D. C. recently. Briden had breakfast with him.....From private to second lieutenant is the jump JOE FLANNERY made recently when he graduated from OCS at Ft. Benning. He stopped by to visit REA on his way to Camp Robinson, Ark., where he will be an infantry instructor. Joe, who was a senior auditor in Finance's Region 5, took his basic at Camp Hood.....T/SGT. RODNEY WALDRON is with the 77th Infantry Division, the same that Ernie Pyle was associated with at the time of his death. Perhaps RODNEY will write the Roll Call something about it.....Total subscribed by REA'ers to the recent Red Cross drive amounted to \$4,004.25 with 699 employees participating. This was an

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GERMANS SULLEN AND SOUR

Cpl. George T. Bradbury is in Germany and in the group that mopped up on Leipzig. In writing to his wife, he describes occupied Germany this way, "We are in a section that has been mined and bombed pretty thoroughly..... dead horses and cows everywhere.....it doesn't pay to try to move dead animals because half the time it's booby traps or mines that killed them and there are usually some more unexploded ones in the vicinity.

"The German civilians are starting to return to the towns and cities around here and the roads in some places are pretty thick with handcarts and horse-carts loaded down with family and furniture.....Of course we have strict orders about not fraternizing with German civilians, but from what I've seen of them, it doesn't look as if orders are necessary. We can always be sure of one real enemy for as long as we exist; these civilians will never forgive us for what we have done to them----even though it was no more than they did to everyone else. None of them will look at us when they pass a soldier----they look down at the ground when they go by.

"It is an insight into the nature of these people just to look through their photo albums ----of which every house seems to have dozens. The frames contained snaps of old Germans that all resembled von Hindenburg or newer Germans that were in uniform and were posed in captured cities----usually with a bunch of prisoners in the background."

A DECADE OF REA

Maytime is birthday time for REA. This year ten candles will deck the cake. The dinner was postponed to May 18 out of respect for FDR.

The crowd that night is expected to be large, but thoughts will turn to those who cannot be with us----our boys and girls in service scattered over the world. We'll be thinking of you as our unseen guests that night, and hoping that, somehow, birthday time next year will see the clouds of war dispersed and the party made merry by your presence.

GOING UP

Pfc. Arthur Vieregg; Lt. (j.g.) Edgar F. Renshaw, USNR; Seaman 1/c radio man Allyn Wolff; 2nd Lt. Joe Flannery; Capt. Warner T. Smith; Capt. James E. Douce; Sgt. Bill Wise; Major Frank Peebles; Nick U. Martinez, Sp(v) 2/c.

COLUMN WRITE!

(Cont'd)

average per capita of \$5.71 and the agency received the 100% award....NICK U. MARTINEZ, Sp(v) 2/c, stopped at REA recently on his way to Chicago to play in the national AAU Handball Tournament. He's stationed at Olathe, Kan. Ever since college days he has played a lot of handball. Last year he got third place in the YMCA Doubles Handball national tournament. This year he was eliminated in the quarter-finals of the doubles.....C'mon in, the water's fine---That's the idea we get from LT. BRUCE WATKINS' most recent letter from somewhere in the Pacific when he says, "The swimming is great, and now the weather is fine. I think I will look back on this as a pretty nice spot. This has been good duty here. Had a letter from Zelda (Krino-witz) in San Francisco. I haven't heard from Dave Cohen for months now. I'm now awaiting orders; probably go back to Pearl for re-assignment.".....LT. H. S. WILLIAMS has been transferred to N.R.L. at the Navy Yard, Anacostia, Washington, D. C., where he's with the Electronic Field Service Group. "This is a group of experts on radar, sonar, and radio," he explains, "who are furnished to the various commands in the forward area to take care of the tough problems. I'm still in training, but in much closer contact than in my former position. We have a grand 'Skipper' and a very congenial crew aboard."

HERE TO THERE DEPARTMENT: Cpl. Raymond A. Gallagher, APO 512, New York; Thomas B. Dunphy, CEM, Naval Repair Base, San Diego; Betty Willard, Y 3/c, Seattle, Wash; Major Frank Peebles, Monterey, Calif.; Lt. Joseph M. Davis, Jr., APO 689; Ensign Harry L. Oswald, FPO, New Orleans; Lt. Col. Edwin J. Withers, Command and General Staff School, Leavenworth, Kan.; Pfc. Arthur Vieregg, APO, New York City; Russ Goodwin, Y 2/c, FPO, San Francisco; Capt. James E. Douce, APO, San Francisco; Sgt. Wm. C. Wise, APO 228, New York; Lt. (j.g.) H. Hardin Shattuck, FPO, San Francisco; Seaman 1/c radio man Allyn Wolff, Shoemaker, Calif.; Pvt. Robert M. Cox, APO 11543, San Francisco.

DEEP IN THE HEART OF BURMA

The Stilwell Road comes to life in Major Roy G. Zook's descriptive letter. "This is really a big country---bigger than Texas! Do you remember when C. D. Blair used to remark that it was useless to run a service drop to some of the tenant shacks, because if they put any tension on the wires it would pull the wall out? Well, these 'bashas' (houses) over here are about like that. They are also very deceptive. A perfectly sound 'basha' (apparently) will suddenly groan and give way completely, like a hound dog 'letting go all holts'. Others that lean at a crazy angle and that you are afraid to lean against will stand for months.....The only place I've ever been where the mud was any more slippery than it is around here was down in central Alabama. It's like walking on ice, actually; chains on vehicles do little or no good.....Game is supposed to be plentiful around here and a number of the men have gone hunting, but all that's been brought back so far has been a flying fox."

REA FILLS 76% OF WAR BOND QUOTA

REA staff members, both in St. Louis and in the field, have already bought or pledged 76% of their \$119,000 quota in the Seventh War Loan.

The drive which is now in its second month is being paced by the Cooperatives' Operations Division which has filled 88% of its assigned goal. Close behind are Design and Construction, 87%, and Information, 85%.

Special emphasis in this drive is being laid on additional payroll deductions, aside from the amounts regularly deducted from each employee's pay-check. The campaign in government agencies will run for three months, ending June 30, enabling REAers to pledge additional deductions and cash purchases.

Divisional representatives in REA are:

Administrator's Office - Martha Reno
Design and Construction - Ann Hesseldenz,
Helen Martiszus
A & L - Elbert E. Karns
Co-op Operations - H. W. Dunham
Technical Standards - Robert A. Peiter
Information - Bernard Krug
Personnel - Marian C. Barry
Management - Marie Kompesh
Finance - George T. Gilleland
Solicitors - Thomas J. O'Reilly, Stanley
Schuchat

WANTS TELECAST OF REA PARTY

(Cont'd)

not quite like New York City yet----but the Sea Bees are working on the countryside, and you know they can work miracles.....Food and accommodations are good and some of the more rugged individuals claim there is too much of a Stateside atmosphere here already.

"Cocoanut trees are everywhere, and the fruit seems to be growing pretty well. I don't know much about the crop yet but will read up on it in the next few months. There are trees around the hut, so I can observe the growth from day to day.

"I met Lt. Severine out here and had quite a chat with him. He is looking fine and likes his present duty very much.....Would like a telecast of the Annual Party in May----but television hasn't reached that point yet."

A WAC WRITES FROM BELGIUM

(Cont'd)

"We have been in this country over a week. I like it so much. It's very hilly and the countryside is beautiful. Lilacs and tulips are blooming and there are so many of them. We flew here from Reims, France, where we were stationed all winter. Walked to the top of the Cathedral there. Also visited the champagne cellars in Reims which were interesting. A place has just opened selling ice cream. We visited it practically every night and hated to leave it. They have ice cream here, but the Americans aren't permitted to buy it---very tempting."

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Married: Lt. Joseph M. Davis, Jr., formerly with Finance Division, to Glenna Alene Erhardt, October 31, at Spokane, Washington.

Born: To Lt. and Mrs. Wm. Melchiorson, a boy, William George, April 4. The Lieutenant was formerly with D & C and Mrs. Melchiorson was Montez McAdoo with A & L.

To Capt. and Mrs. Andrew J. Myers, Jr., a girl, Andra Lee, February 2. He was formerly with Co-op Operations and later with D & C.